

**National Capital Area Council (NCAC) Aquatics Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**September 15 2010**  
**American Legion Post 177, Fairfax Virginia**

Introductions – Mike Meenehan, Committee Chairman, welcomed attendees to the first meeting of the third year of the NCAC Aquatics Committee.

Attendees introduced themselves: Mike Meenehan, Chuck Trude, Rush Kester, Tom Ballew, Lee Hutchins, Adrienne Mears-King, Mike Engiles, Donald Zumbach. Don Zumbach, Aquatics Instructor from Camp Airy, was welcomed to his first meeting.

An updated membership roster was distributed. Meeting minutes from the 16 June 2010 Aquatics Committee meeting were approved.

NCAC Committee Liaison Reports –

Sea Scouts – Skipper Tom Ballew reminded everyone of the recent two 8-foot bull sharks caught in the Potomac River near Point Lookout. His Sea Scout 'Ship 1942' won the eastern seaboard's 'Henry Nygard Sea Scout Regatta' competitions for an unprecedented third time this year. A combined rowing crew made up of members from 'Ship 1942' and the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, also placed first in the 8-man annual rowing event 'Wye Island Regatta,' sponsored by the Annapolis Rowing Club. His 'Ship 1942' may be interested in scuba certification in the next year.

High Adventure Committee – Lee Hutchins forwarded the recent High Adventure Committee minutes. Of note was the Lenhoksin-sponsored James River canoe trips were lightly attended this year.

Leadership Development (formerly NCAC Training Committee) – the committee will meet on 21 September. Aquia District has scheduled Paddle Craft Safety (PCS) and Swimming and Water Rescue (SWR) courses on existing training dates (per our request). Tom B. and Lee H. are attending the current Wood Badge course.

Venturing – Adrienne Mears-King reported on the recent dissolution of the NCAC Teen Program Committee. Teen program support is supposed to be provided by all Council and District committees without needing to have a separate Council-level committee. A Powderhorn training course is being planned for 2011. Some Varsity teams have active rowing programs (the Aquatics Committee could use a rowing/crew representative).

The Open Water Scuba certification class at Camp Snyder had six scouts complete the course on 20 June. An additional 7 scouts joined them on 26 June to complete their Scuba Diving merit badge.

Tom Ballew had eleven youth and leaders complete BSA and American Red Cross Lifeguard courses at his Sea Scout Camp at Solomons Island in July.

The 2010 National Jamboree had lots of representation by NCACers. Bob Tallent led the Jambo Scuba activity that put 20,300 scouts through a Discover Scuba/Snorkeling experiences. The tritonsociety.org has a new marine conservation award for scouts and scouters.

Rush Kester had six participants in his late July Red Cross Lifeguard course in Maryland.

The 14 August Paddle Craft Safety Course had three leaders complete the water portion of the course. They had all taken the classroom sessions so each received their PCS training completion cards. Harry Nagel and Mike Meenehan staffed the session at Camp Snyder.

The 21 August Swimming and Water Rescue course had no registrations. We used the pool time to complete a scout's Lifesaving merit badge partial.

The 29 August Scuba BSA sessions had 27 participants in the 4 one hour sessions. The sessions needed to be 1 ½ hrs long. Team Engiles (Mike, Alyssa and John), Rich Havel and Mike Meenehan staffed the course. One scout who attended is now enrolled in an open water diving certification course.

Scuba Jam 2010 had its inaugural event at Lake Rawlings VA on 3-5 September. NCAC crews made up half the participants (Crew 1919 and Troop 1833). The goal is to have the event planned in time for program launch in 2011. There is a great video by Tom Burns at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7fi6atuxHI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7fi6atuxHI)

The canoe trailer project has taken an unfortunate turn. Lee Hutchins sandblasted the trailer down to bare metal in the renovation process. He uncovered several major structural problems including a bowed axel, split frame and undersized tires. Adrienne Mears-King took the trailer to her fabrication shop to assess it. It would need about \$1500 in materials to bring up to standards. It was decided NOT to make the investment. They will prime the trailer and return it to Camp Snyder for utility usage.

Canoe storage racks will be built by the Camp Snyder pool by the current Wood Badge course as part of their service project.

Mike Donaghue (Goshen Scout Ranch Director) informed us that they have six non-metallic canoes that we could use for canoe training at Camp Snyder. Mike Meenehan will transport them from Goshen during the week of 20 September. With them we will be able to conduct PCS courses in the Snyder pool during off-seasons.

Bob Brandel researched Florida Sea Base's asthma policy. They require participants with any history of asthma to pass an inhalation challenge test. The results seem to be highly dependent on the therapist administering the test. Bob has advice on suggested sources of the test.

Aquatics programs went well at all NCAC summer camps: Camp Snyder, Goshen Scout Reservation camps, and Camp Airy. The Aquatics Committee established communication with most of the Aquatics Directors before the camp season started. Goshen replaced their banana boats with hotdogs which were very popular. Swimming and Water Rescue and Paddle Craft Safety were not widely taught. Camp Airy conducted a simulated emergency drill.

This summer 23 BSA Lifeguards and one BSA Lifeguard Instructor applications were turned in to the Council office: Tom Ballew (11), Camp Olmsted (8), Camp Bowman (1) Camp Airy (1) and out of NCAC Camps (2).

The 2010 NCAC Aquatics activities schedule is in development and should be available in the next couple of weeks. Aquia District has scheduled PCS & SWR courses for October and March. The Snyder pool will open in May of next year which will allow us more time for aquatics training courses. A BSA Lifeguard course will be offered along with precamp swim checks, Scuba BSA, scuba diving merit badge and scuba certification programs.

PADI scuba diving course scholarship forms are available on the NCAC website [www.boyscouts-ncac.org/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?orgkey=1988&id=81870](http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?orgkey=1988&id=81870) The forms are due to BSA National HQ by Dec 31.

The national Aquatics Task Force council survey results were distributed. From the results, it appears that we are doing better than most other councils. The National Aquatics Task Force meeting will be held at the Florida Sea Base on 3-7 November.

Divers Alert Network (DAN) introduced special training opportunities for Scout Leaders. They are offering their instructor qualification course for Core/BLSFA/AED/O2/Adv O2/HMLI/DEMP/Neuro Instructor Ratings at special reduced prices. See Mike Meenehan for more information.

Troop 1833, Manassas VA, is having a liveaboard dive trip in the Bahamas July 30 – Aug 5 2011. They are looking for additional qualified divers.

Bob Brandel volunteered to teach the Safe Swim Defense/Safety Afloat course at Pow Wow on 20 November at Annandale High School. The Aquatics Committee will also have a display in the midway. Harry Nagel has volunteered to help man the display.

There are Aquatics Committee promotion materials available for your use at District Roundtables, Training Events, etc. They consist of display boards (Cub Scout Aquatics, Boy Scout Aquatics, Leader Aquatics, Aquatics Committee, Scuba/Snorkel BSA programs), informational flyers, and scout scuba brochures. Carol Cass has graciously volunteered to handle website updates for the Aquatics Committee.

We reviewed the contents of the BSA aquatics resource CD that distributed: Aquatics Supervision Manual, Aquatics Staff Guide, PCS Instructor Guide, PCS Powerpoint, SWR Instructor Guide, SWR Powerpoint, BSA Lifeguard Instructor manual.

The next Aquatics Committee meeting will be Wednesday, December 15. Location is to be determined.